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## THE NEWS.

A letter to the Baltimore American, from Harper's Ferry states that Colonel Cole's Maryland Cavalry, under Capt. Hunter, encountered a body of Confederate cavalry on the 1st inst., near Rectortown, Loudon county, Va.—A desperate fight ensued, but the forces of Hunter were finally defeated, all but eighteen out of seventy-five being either killed or taken prisoners. Capt. Hunter made his escape and has arrived at Point of Rocks. Cole's Cavalry is an independent command, formed in the early days of the war of men residing in Maryland and Virginia, along the line of the Potomac, and familiar with the country on both sides.

According to the Washington Star, a gentleman who left Hagerstown, Md., on Monday morning reports considerable excitement there on account of the rumored threatened Confederate raid in the Valley of Virginia. Several of the merchants in that town are said to fear a dash across the river, and have their goods packed up in order to remove them at a moment's notice.

A dispatch from Cincinnati states that Gen. Forrest has crossed the Tennessee river with one of the largest supply trains of the war, including 1,800 head of cattle, and every horse, mule and wagon he could find in West Tennessee.

A dispatch from the Army of the Potomac reports all quiet, and the weather very cold with three inches of snow.

An engine and a train of freight cars yesterday ran off the steamer Maryland and were precipitated into the Susquehanna river at a short distance from the dock on the Havre de Grace side. No lives were lost.

The steamer Ocean Queen, with the California mails and \$250,000 in gold, arrived at New York yesterday. In Central America General Mosquera is reported to have badly defeated Gen. Flores.

A collision occurred yesterday on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad. The baggage master was killed and fifteen or twenty others wounded.

A dispatch from Cairo states that no serious damage has been done to the Memphis and Charleston Railroad by General Forrest's raid.

The funeral of Archbishop Hughes took place this morning at ten o'clock from St. Patrick's Cathedral, N. Y.

Gregg's Cavalry Division, under command of Col. Taylor, of the 1st Pennsylvania regiment, made a reconnoissance towards Front Royal during the past three days, but found no Confederates. They traversed a distance of ninety miles, and suffered terribly from the cold. Another expedition to Rectortown succeeded in capturing three Confederate officers and two hundred new Confederate uniforms at

that place. Col. Smith, of the 1st Maine, also made a scout to Luray and other points in the Shenandoah Valley.

A military Commission sitting at Norfolk, Va., has developed the rather astonishing fact that a chartered U. S. Government transport (the steamer John A. Warner), whose value was \$65,000, has earned, at the rate of her charter, the sum of \$173,500 to date. The Government has furnished coal, and the expenses of the boat have not exceeded \$1,200 per month, which have been defrayed by selling goods and meals on board.

Judge Hogeboom has decided the long pending controversy between the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company, in favor of the former company.

An arrival at San Francisco brings late advices from China and Japan. It was generally thought in the latter country that a peaceful solution would be found for the troubles between the foreign Governments and Tyeoon, although civil war was already progressing between the latter and the Daimios.

The National Intelligencer of this morning announces that Mr. Secretary Chase has been prevented by sickness for two days past from attending to his official duties.

COUNTY COURT.—Tuesday—(From the Record.—Crosby vs. Riley—on a removal—case continued, the jury being unable to agree.

Hirsch vs. Fiege—in case—verdict for plaintiff. Motion for a new trial overruled.

Asiatic Bank, Kimball, Robinson & Co., J. H. Prentice, Francis, Dane & Co., and Balduston, Ward & Co., vs. C. A. Baldwin & Co.—case attachment—verdict and judgments for plaintiffs in each case; and ordered that the effects attached be sold to satisfy judgments.

Albert French, lessee, vs. J. & W. H. Cheshier—unlawful detainer—verdict for defendants, and judgment accordingly.

Elizabeth Cross et als. vs. Geo. H. Markell and J. E. McGraw, fiduciaries under the will of R. Y. Cross—on a motion to revoke and annul the powers of defendants—docketed and motion sustained.

Pitkin & Co. vs. B. C. Williams—case attachment—ordered that the attached effects be sold.

Com. vs. Walter Waddey, and same vs. Franklin Creighton—on indictments—dismissed.

The river is filled from Washington down to Fort Washington, and below that, with ice, and the cold is hourly consolidating and increasing it. Navigation is difficult and dangerous, and if such weather as we had this morning continues, the river will be closed entirely in a day or two.

It is said that Mr. Henry Shackelford, of Culpeper, lately confined in the Old Capitol prison, is on a furlough, and has gone to City Point, not Point Lookout.

U. S. CONGRESS.—The Congress of the U. S. reassembled in Washington yesterday. In the Senate the Vice President presented a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a list of officers who left the service of the U. S. between the 1st of December, 1860, and the 1st of December, 1863, and indicating which of them went into the Confederate service or went South. Mr. Powell introduced his bill to prevent officers of the army and navy or other persons engaged in the military or naval service, from interfering in elections in the States; it was ordered to be printed. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to increase the bounty of volunteers, and also a bill to amend the Enrollment act, as a substitute for the bill now pending. Under its provisions all exemptions are laid aside except where the drafted parties are found to be physically or mentally incapacitated.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, asked leave to submit a resolution setting apart the old Hall of Representatives as a depository for statuary, but Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, objected, saying that at the earliest possible moment he intended to offer a bill for the removal of the seat of Government from "this barren and isolated country." The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President, earnestly recommending that the law recently passed be so modified that the \$300 bounty be extended at least till the first of February next. A letter from the Secretary of War accompanies the message, setting forth the necessity of increasing the army and the propriety of offering large bounties to volunteers rather than resorting to a draft. Also, a message recommending appropriation to meet the awards under the Peruvian Commission. A bill was introduced to repeal the duty on coal and paper. A resolution to appoint a select committee to examine into the expediency of establishing a new postal route between Washington and New York was submitted, but not acted on. After some other unimportant business, it was found that there was not a quorum present, and an adjournment took place.

DEATH FROM INHALATION OF ETHER.—Dr. Young, of Shultzville, Washington township, who was assistant surgeon to the board of enrollment of this county during the last examination of drafted men, died on Tuesday night, at his home, from the effects of inhaling too much ether. He had saturated a cloth with ether, and laid it on his forehead to relieve him from a headache, and in that way went to sleep. It is supposed that during the night the cloth slipped over his nose and mouth, and thus caused the fatal effects of the ether.—Reading (Pa.) Gazette

Only one or two oyster boats have been fortunate enough to reach here since the freeze began; and oysters are now at an exorbitant price. Very inferior ones, some people have been foolish enough to pay a dollar a bushel for.